

FAA Background Information Regarding U.S. Civil Aviation – Iran

There is a risk to United States (U.S.) operators, U.S.-registered civil aircraft and U.S. airmen (collectively, U.S. civil aviation) operating in the Tehran (OIIX) Flight Information Region (FIR) from military activities associated with the conflicts in Iraq and Syria that transit the Tehran (OIIX) FIR. According to media reports, on 7 October 2015, Russian naval vessels launched 26 land-attack cruise missiles from ships in the Caspian Sea against targets in Syria, four of which inadvertently impacted the ground in Iran. On 17 November 2015, Russia initiated an intensified bombing campaign using strategic bombers against extremist/militant targets in Syria. Reports also indicate that these strategic bombers conducted a number of air-launched cruise missile attacks. Future ship-launched or aircraft-launched missiles may transit international air routes over Iran and/or Iraq, en route to targets in Syria. Although there have been no recently reported incidents, Iranian military elements have been known to engage aircraft operating near Iranian restricted areas. The potential exists for heightened Iranian air defense sensitivity, particularly during periods of Russian military activity and/or tension in the Middle East.

On 17 October 2015, the FAA published Notice to Airmen FDC 5/8442 (reissued on 24 November 2015 as NOTAM KICZ A0024/15), which advises U.S. civil aviation to exercise caution when operating in the Tehran (OIIX) FIR. This background notice was amended on 26 February 2016 to provide revised information regarding hazards to U.S. civil aviation in the Tehran (OIIX) FIR.

Operators are reminded to check all applicable NOTAMs and stay current on events in the region. Security conditions may change rapidly. The FAA will continue to monitor the situation regarding the risks to U.S. civil aviation in the Tehran (OIIX) FIR and make adjustments, as necessary, to its advisory for U.S. civil aviation operations.

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